

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1885.

The Succession.

Many persons feel a deep interest in the question which has come up for discussion as a consequence of the death of Mr. Hendricks. One of them writes to us as follows:

ONE OR TWO QUESTIONS.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Permit me to ask you one or two questions.

Suppose that Mr. Hendricks had lived, and suppose that Mr. Cleveland had been sick or accident, become totally unable to discharge the powers and duties of the office of President, and the fact had been established according to law, do you think that Mr. Hendricks would have then become President of the United States, and would have filled the unexpired term, or would he have only discharged the duties and powers of the office of President of the United States?

"The election of Mr. GREY, if it appears, was not unanimous." Of course not; tastes differ.

"A Boston historian says that bangs are of African origin." It isn't necessary to be a historian to see that they are of barbarous origin.

The New York Herald decides that.

"by all odds, the breakfast is the best meal of the day." That depends, we should think, upon what you have for breakfast.

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School-looks-Public Meeting in Bedford.

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On motion, Robert S. Quarles was appointed secretary.

The chairman stated that the object of the meeting was to get some expression of the sense of the people of the county in regard to the bills now pending in the Legislature to furnish "free books" to school-children.

The following preamble and resolutions were offered by Mr. M. P. Burks:

Whereas certain bills are now pending in the Legislature of this State for the purpose of furnishing "free books" to the children of the public schools of this Commonwealth, and such books are to be furnished by an increase of taxes on the persons and property of this Commonwealth; and whereas the existing law makes ample provision for furnishing free books to children unable to purchase the same; and whereas we do not feel able or willing to bear such additional taxation for the purpose aforesaid; and whereas we deem the proposed increase of taxes, in respect to the same, to be an unjust and oppressive burden on the people of this Commonwealth; and whereas we are hereby, in the event supposed have exercised the office of President only during the inability of the President. He would have lost his title to the office the moment Mr. CLEVELAND's inability ceased. The office would have devolved back upon the elected President. This question, too, is settled by the Constitution itself, which, in providing that an officer can "act as President" only until the disability of the Vice-President is removed, does in effect provide that the Vice-President can exercise the "office" of President only until the "disability" of the elected President be removed.

In this answering, we have replied to all the interrogatories of our correspondent.

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We don't think the President needs any assistance in this matter. He knows the Republican senators too well, and gives them too many of the offices, to be afraid of opposition from them in the Senate.

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cause the coinage of silver is stopped. The prevailing and better opinion is that the result of stopping the coinage of silver dollars would be a decline in the gold value of silver bullion.

Southern Cotton-Factories.

A cable letter from the New York Times says: "There is some nervousness among the Manchester (Eng.) manufacturers lest the development of cotton-factories in the southern States, with a line of transport from New Orleans, should hurt their expected Congo trade." If the English cotton-manufacturers have come to fear the result of the development of cotton-factories in the South, what must be the outlook for New England manufacturers? Already the South is competing with New England in the manufacture of the coarser grades of cotton goods, and if the former will turn her attention to the subject of skilled labor it is only a question of time when she will be able to compete with New England in the manufacture of the finest cotton fabrics. When that day comes there will be no trouble about getting capitalists to invest in the South.

THE SCHOOL-BOOK QUESTION.

The Winchester Times says: "We see that the Legislature is in a dilemma in regard to the plank in the Democratic platform that pledged free books to the free schools. The same plank is found in the Republican platform. Such a law would be both unconstitutional and impracticable. The Constitution limits the power of the Legislature to furnish free books only to indigent children. It is impracticable in the next place, because it would cost the State far beyond its present means. The Legislature had best postpone any action on this pledge until some future day, when the man of the State are graver and the necessary change in the Constitution can be effected."

That is a Winchester lawyer's opinion.

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